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COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

Twenty-second session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 586th MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Friday, 8 September 1999, at 12 noon

Chairperson: Ms. MBOI

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The meeting was called to order at 12 noon.

ADOPTION OF THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT ON ITS TWENTY-SECOND SESSION (CRC/C/90)

1. The CHAIRPERSON said that the Committee's major current asset was a membership skilled in areas as diverse as law, diplomacy, education, psychology and medicine, and experienced in working with governments, civil society and the academic world. The Committee was thus in a position to consider all aspects of States parties' application of the Convention, which was an instrument that took an integrated approach to children's rights.

2. Since the start of the session, the Committee had taken major steps to clear the backlog in its consideration of reports while maintaining and extending the quality and relevance of its recommendations and concluding observations, namely re-introduction of the country rapporteur system, improved distribution of work and opportunities for discussion among Committee members, and enhanced collaboration between members and Secretariat.

3. She emphasized the importance the Committee attached to the contributions made by all those who had attended the meetings, whether in an individual capacity or as representatives of governments, United Nations bodies or NGOs. Their interest and involvement were crucial to the scope and effectiveness of the Committee's work. She thanked them all, particularly the representatives of States parties with whom the Committee had exchanged views during the twenty-second session.

4. While it appreciated that the objective circumstances in each State party could hamper as well as facilitate the Convention's implementation, the Committee hoped that its questions, suggestions and recommendations would induce the international community to show greater regard for children's rights worldwide.

5. She invited members to comment on the report on the twenty-second session (CRC/C/90). She asked firstly for their opinions on the text of the Committee's recommendation concerning the administration of justice for minors, which featured in the introduction to the report.

6. The text of the Committee's recommendation on the administration of justice for minors was adopted.

7. The CHAIRPERSON invited members to consider chapter I, "Organizational and other matters", chapter III, "Overview of the other activities of the Committee", and chapter IV "Draft provisional agenda for the twenty-third session", of the report.

8. Chapters I, III and IV of the report were adopted.

9. The CHAIRPERSON invited the Rapporteur to introduce section B of chapter II of the report, entitled "Reports by States parties under article 44 of the Convention" and containing the Committee's concluding observations on the reports by Venezuela, the Russian Federation, Vanuatu, Mexico, Mali and the Netherlands.

10. Mr. DOEK (Rapporteur), owing to lack of time, confined himself to describing the main aspects of the observations on each report.

Concluding observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child: Venezuela (CRC/C/15/Add.109)

11. The concluding observations on the initial report of Venezuela were adopted.

Concluding observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child: Russian Federation (CRC/C/15/Add.110)

12. The concluding observations on the second periodic report of the Russian Federation were adopted.

Concluding observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child: Vanuatu (CRC/C/15/Add.111)

13. The concluding observations on the initial report of Vanuatu were adopted.

Concluding observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child: Mexico (CRC/C/15/Add.112)

14. The concluding observations on the second periodic report of Mexico were adopted.

Concluding observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child: Mali (CRC/C/15/Add.113)

15. The concluding observations on the initial report of Mali were adopted.

Concluding observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child: Netherlands (CRC/C/15/Add.114)

16. The concluding observations on the initial report of the Netherlands were adopted.

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

17. The CHAIRPERSON, after thanking all those who had contributed to the successful conduct of the Committee's twenty-second session, said that owing to her appointment to other duties at WHO, she had resigned her membership of the Committee with effect from 9 October. From that date, Mrs. Sardenberg would replace her on a temporary basis until the Committee elected a new Chairperson at its January 2000 session. She hoped that the twenty-second session had made it possible to break new ground and progress further in the field of protection of children's rights.

18. Mr. DOEK thanked the Chairperson for the drive, engergy and effectiveness she had brought to the Committee's work during her short but productive term of office. He was sorry that she was resigning, and wished her every success in her new duties.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.